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Letter dated 18 July 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement by the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the States Members of the Commonwealth of Independent States concerning the situation in the autonomous district of Kosovo and Metohija of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, adopted at St. Petersburg on 13 June 2000 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a Security Council document.

(*Signed*) G. **Gatilov**
First Deputy Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 18 July 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Decision by the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the States Members of the Commonwealth of Independent States

On the statement by the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the States Members of the Commonwealth of Independent States concerning the situation in the autonomous district of Kosovo and Metohija of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia*

The Inter-Parliamentary Assembly decides:

1. To adopt the statement by the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the States Members of the Commonwealth of Independent States concerning the situation in the autonomous district of Kosovo and Metohija of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

2. To transmit the text of this statement to the United Nations, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, and the Parliamentary Assembly of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

(*Signed*) E. S. **Stroev**

* The delegations of the Republic of Azerbaijan and Georgia abstained in the vote on this issue.

Annex

Statement by the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the States Members of the Commonwealth of Independent States concerning the situation in the autonomous district of Kosovo and Metohija of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

The Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the States Members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) is following with great concern the development of the situation in the autonomous district of Kosovo and Metohija of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

24 March 2000 marked the completion of a year since the beginning of the missile and bomber strikes by NATO aviation on the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and 12 June marked the first anniversary of the entry into the territory of the Kosovo and Metohija district of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia of the international security force (KFOR) and the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK). Those units were brought in for the purpose of maintaining order and stability in that region and settling conflicts arising among its citizens.

However, in spite of the presence in the above-mentioned districts of forces intended to carry out peacekeeping functions, there have been many cases of the perpetration in the territory of Kosovo of crimes against the Serbian population and representatives of other ethnic groups, including acts of terrorism, killings and kidnappings, ethnic cleansing and gross violations of human rights. The international forces are unable to carry out properly the tasks assigned to them of maintaining peace and calm in the district, ensuring the unimpeded return of all refugees and displaced persons to their homes, and restoring Kosovo's war-ravaged economy.

The parliamentarians of the CIS countries cannot remain indifferent to the fact that, a year after the end of the military actions by NATO in Yugoslavia, the conflict in the autonomous district of Kosovo and Metohija remains unresolved and the lives of many thousands of people remain endangered.

The Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the States Members of CIS considers it necessary to state that the activity of KFOR and UNMIK should be directed towards ensuring the implementation by all the political forces of the region and by the European and international communities of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), which expresses the commitment of Member States to the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Yugoslavia and the other States of the region.

The parliamentarians of CIS believe that the question of crime in the autonomous district of Kosovo and Metohija should be taken up at the meetings of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

The Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the States Members of CIS calls upon the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the political and governmental leaders of the European States to take the necessary steps to stop the bloodshed and protect human rights in the Yugoslav district of Kosovo and

Metohija and to work actively to promote the equality of all the citizens of that district regardless of their ethnic origin or religion.

The Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the States Members of CIS thanks the military contingents of the Russian Federation, Ukraine, the Republic of Azerbaijan, and Georgia for their selfless efforts to assist a peaceful settlement in Kosovo and to preserve the lives of the citizens of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.